

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-7 remain pending and stand allowed. Appealed rejected claims 8-24 are hereby cancelled, thus effecting a withdrawal of the appeal (with claims standing allowed). *See* MPEP § 1215.02 (1200-63), Rev. 3, August 2005. A minor typographical error in claim 1 is corrected.

Since all of pending claims 4-7 stand allowed, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Prompt notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. An Information Disclosure Statement is being filed herewith to disclose a reference cited recently in a corresponding Japanese application. The cited reference is a published PCT application corresponding to U.S. Patent No. 6,947,882, assigned to the present assignee.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees that may be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, or to obtain consideration of the IDS filed herewith, to Deposit Account No. 19-0733.

Respectfully submitted,

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